

CCYD NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING OUR LEARNERS

"Taking Pride"

DECEMBER 2025 / Issue 17



CCYD FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR

The festive season was in full swing at CCYD last week as the school hosted its second annual Christmas Craft Fair, bringing together learners, families and local businesses for an evening of creativity and community spirit. All 40 stalls brimmed with handmade crafts, seasonal decorations, and unique gifts, showcasing the incredible talent within the community. Local businesses were given the opportunity to promote and sell their goods, turning the fair into a vibrant marketplace filled with festive cheer. Supporting learners and the community, funds raised from the stalls have gone directly into the learner fund, ensuring that the event not only celebrated the season but also contributed to enriching learner life at CCYD. The fair highlighted the importance of supporting both education and local enterprises, creating a win-win for everyone involved. Looking ahead organisers expressed gratitude to all who attended and supported the event, noting how heartening it was to see the community come together. With the success of this year's fair, anticipation is already building for next year's celebration. The winners of the CCYD Christmas Craft Fair raffle 2025 are: Family ticket to Luminate - Emma Hicks, Cuddly Toy - Liam O'Brien, Large hamper - Helen Jones, Gin - Clare Griffiths, Pamper set - Caroline Yr 7, Chocolate and treats - Emilia Yr9. Thank you all so much for your continued support.



CCYD MUSIC & DRAMA DEPARTMENTS

CCYD Presents: The Little Shop of Horrors. After the incredible success and glowing praise for our previous production, Matilda, we are thrilled to announce that the next spectacular school show at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (CCYD) will be 'The Little Shop of Horrors'! This iconic musical promises laughter, drama, and unforgettable performances - but beyond the bright lights and catchy tunes, our school productions represent something much deeper: the power of friendship, commitment, and dedication of our learners. From the very first rehearsal, learners have been working tirelessly, supporting one another and forming bonds that will last a lifetime. Every note sung, every line rehearsed, and every piece of the set constructed reflects the incredible teamwork and determination of our learners and staff. These shows are not just about entertainment - they are about building confidence, resilience, and a sense of community. Behind the scenes, the set is taking shape, costumes are being prepared, and our talented cast is perfecting every detail to ensure this will be a show-stopping performance. The dedication of our learners and staff is truly inspiring, and we cannot wait to share the magic with you. Stay tuned for updates on our social media channels as we count down to opening night. Trust us - you won't want to miss this!



CCYD RAIL SAFETY SILVER AWARD

Congratulations to CCYD on achieving the Silver Level through Rail Safe Friendly. The Rail Safe Friendly program is dedicated to educating young people about rail safety, aiming to prevent accidents and promote awareness in schools across the UK.



Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Gullsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12	58%	42%
people died in accidents while trespassing	were struck by a train or tram	were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+	11,000+	20,000+
companies support the programme	schools in the UK have engaged	UK schools still need to be reached

CCYD YEAR 10 SEREN LEARNERS

We are proud to share that 24 of our Year 10 learners were recently invited to attend an inspiring event hosted by the Seren Academy. Seren is a fully funded programme designed to support the aspirations and ambitions of the most able learners across Wales.


Its mission is to broaden horizons, ignite passion for learning, and help learners reach their full academic potential - regardless of socioeconomic background. The event took place at Pencoed STEAM Academy, where our learners participated in a series of engaging workshops and lectures. A highlight of the day was a live video link with Jonathan Munro, a former Bridgend pupil who benefited from the Seren Network and is now in his fifth year studying at Oxford University to become a GP. Jonathan's journey served as an inspiring example of what determination and opportunity can achieve. Throughout the day, our learners demonstrated curiosity, confidence, and commitment. They asked thoughtful questions, engaged in meaningful discussions, and represented Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen with pride. Their enthusiasm and professionalism were a credit to the school. We are delighted to see our learners embracing opportunities like this, which encourage them to aim high and pursue their future goals at the very highest level.



Congratulations to our CCYD

KS3 GIRLS FOOTBALL AMBASSADORS

Freya Hillman Y9
Emilie Turner Y8
Martha King Y7
Evie Blackwell Y7
Sofia Turner Y7
Lucie Burrows Y7



COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN

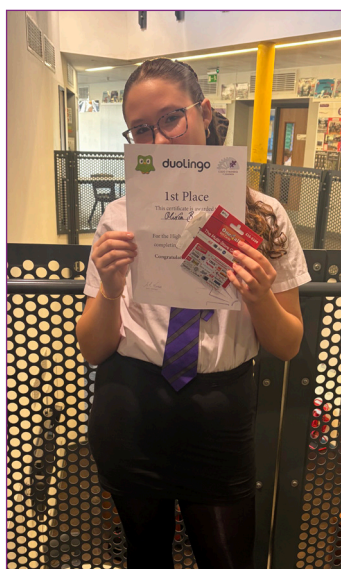
CCYD GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING

Fantastic numbers at girls football training. Massive well done to two of our football ambassadors Freya and Emilie, who after receiving their training have now run their first ever session independently with the girls. We are very proud of your positive attitude embracing your new roles.



CCYD CYMRAEG - DUOLINGO WINNERS

Congratulations to our two outstanding Duolingo learners, Olivia Byrne (Year 9 / KS3) and Jessica Thomas (Year 10 / KS4), who both achieved 1st place in their respective Key Stages. Both learners received a certificate and a shopping voucher in recognition of their fantastic effort and dedication. The challenge was introduced by Miss Winters, Head of Welsh, to inspire learners and staff to practice Welsh outside the classroom in a fun and engaging way. It's been amazing to see so many participants embracing the opportunity to develop their language skills. We're already looking forward to the next Duolingo challenge—so keep practicing and get ready to join in!



CCYD MATHS DEPARTMENT

At Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, we believe that hard work, resilience, and commitment deserve recognition. That's why the Mathematics Department proudly selects a Math's Learner of the Week - a learner who has gone above and beyond in their learning journey. Each week, the department collaborates to choose a learner who stands out for their effort, determination, and positive attitude. Whether it's tackling challenging problems, showing perseverance when things get tough, or consistently striving to improve, these qualities make a real difference - not just in maths, but in life. The winners are congratulated and showcased on the school screens for everyone to see. This celebration isn't just about one learner - it's about inspiring others. When classmates, friends, and younger learners see these achievements, it sends a powerful message: hard work and resilience are worth celebrating. Recognition matters. It builds confidence, motivates continued effort, and reminds us all that success comes from commitment. So, let's keep cheering on our learners and showing that every step forward is something to be proud of!

This terms winning learners are:

Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Aliona Emets

YEAR 8 - Chrisal Nishvin

YEAR 9 - Corey Hoyle

Week 1



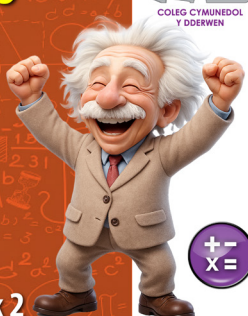
Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Jacob Knight

YEAR 8 - Ben Amos

YEAR 9 - Ava Gregory

Week 2



Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Olivia Osgood

YEAR 8 - Olly Roberts

YEAR 9 - Laylah Jones

Week 3



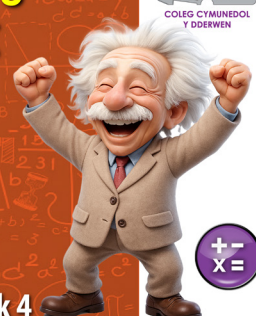
Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Olivia Jones

YEAR 8 - Bradley Harris

YEAR 9 - Kodie Woods-Hill

Week 4



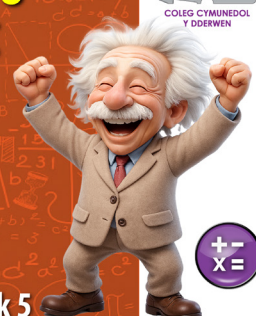
Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Jayden Newberry

YEAR 8 - Amelie Ward

YEAR 9 - Freya Hillman

Week 5



Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Heidi Thomas

YEAR 8 - Mason Thomas

YEAR 9 - Declan Thomas

Week 6



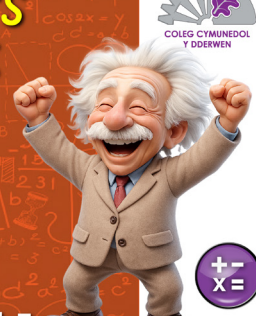
Maths Learners Of The Week

YEAR 7 - Kuang Beh

YEAR 8 - Isaac Whitmore

YEAR 9 - Zi Sian Beh

Week 7




In order to support our learners we run a very popular Maths Club every Tuesday after school, all are welcome.

Mini Einstein's MATHS CLUB

Do you need help with Maths homework?
Would like revision sessions with support?
Do you like fun testing puzzles?

Then join our Mini Einstein's Maths Club

EVERY TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL 2:50pm - 3.50pm ROOM - FA16





CCYD STAFF Vs SIXTH FORM

On the 13th November CCYD witnessed an unforgettable showdown as staff took on the Sixth Form in a charity football match in support of Children in Need. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers echoing across the pitch as learners and staff gathered to watch the drama unfold. Despite forecasts of rain and thunderstorms, the weather held, adding to the excitement of the day. Both teams delivered an incredible display of skill and determination, treating the crowd to a series of spectacular goals. Special mention goes to Mr Humphrey's, who stunned the crowd with his relentless energy and remarkable talent, scoring an impressive hat-trick. Equally memorable was Mr Morgan's 2 goals with one being a perfectly executed penalty, a moment of precision and composure that had the crowds on their feet. However, despite the staff's valiant efforts, the final whistle blew with victory going to the Sixth Form team who edged ahead in a nail-biting finish ending in 6-5. The Sixth Formers were not to be outdone. Nia Lewis, a Welsh international player, showcased her class with 3 superb goals, capitalising on the staff's rare defensive lapses. Adding to the spectacle, Coen Hampton also scored 3 unleashing a long-range missile that left the goalkeeper with no chance and the crowd roaring in disbelief. The match wasn't just about competition—it was about camaraderie, laughter, and coming together for a great cause. From dazzling goals to good-natured banter, the event showcased the spirit of CCYD at its best. A huge thank you to everyone who played, supported, and donated. Together, we made a difference while having an incredible afternoon of football fun!

ONE PITCH, ONE SCHOOL, ONE WINNER.....
FOOTBALL, The staff now need to focus on next year!!!!!!!



FRIENDS OF CCYD (PTFA)

Congratulations to Ella Smith (Year 9) who correctly named our super fluffy prized Polar Bear. This prize was sponsored by Friends of CCYD who work tirelessly to raise funds for our learners at CCYD. If you feel that you could support our school with any prizes for future events then please get in touch with our PTFA team. It really does make a huge difference to our learners when you can purchase specialist resources and gifts to celebrate and promote achievement.



CCYD ATTENDANCE DRIVE - FORTNITE

In the two weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays, CCYD launched an exciting Attendance Drive to encourage learners to stay engaged and present every day. Attendance is the foundation of success, and at CCYD we believe that being in school all day, every day is key to achieving your best. To make things even more rewarding, every learner who achieved 100% attendance during those 10 days with no negative points during this period received a FREE prize and a certificate as a thank-you for their dedication. But that's not all - these learners were also entered into our Super-draw Raffle, with an incredible £220 worth of shopping vouchers up for grabs!. This initiative was all about recognizing effort and commitment. We are proud to say that many learners rose to the challenge and demonstrated outstanding perseverance. Congratulations to all those who achieved perfect attendance! Your hard work and consistency set a fantastic example for others. As we move forward, let's keep the momentum going. Remember: Attendance at CCYD is key to learning and success. Every day counts - so keep striving to be in school, all day, every day!



CCYD ATTENDANCE DRIVE - FORTNITE Continued

Congratulations to all our worthy winners of the December Super-draw raffle! Pictured below are our winners with their vouchers. We hope you enjoy your shopping voucher over the Christmas period - or perhaps save it for the January sales to pick up a real bargain. It is always a pleasure rewarding learners for their hard work, commitment, and positive attitude. While celebrating these successes, it's also important to take a moment to reflect on one of the most crucial aspects of a young person's education: regular school attendance.

Why Attendance Matters

Attending school every day lays the foundation for strong learning habits and long-term success. Consistent attendance helps learners:

- Build knowledge steadily, without gaps that can develop when lessons are missed.
- Develop confidence, as regular participation supports understanding and progress.
- Strengthen friendships and social skills, which are vital for well-being.
- Prepare for future pathways, whether that's further education, training, or employment.

Every lesson matters, and every day counts. Missing even a small number of days over a school year can have a significant impact on achievement and readiness for the next stage of education.

A Legal Responsibility

We must emphasise that attending school is the law. Parents and guardians have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly and on time. We understand that illness and unavoidable circumstances do arise, but wherever possible, learners should be in school engaging with their teachers and peers.

Working Together

As a school, we are committed to supporting every learner and every family. If attendance is challenging for any reason, please reach out - we are here to help. Together, we can make sure all our learners have access to the education, opportunities, and support they deserve. Once again, congratulations to our Super-draw winners. We look forward to seeing all our learners in school, every day, ready to learn and achieve great things in the New Year.

Our Super-draw Raffle Winners are: Zi Sian Beh, Brooke Bayliss, Ivy Pinches, Victoria Hills, Ella Smith, Ieuan Jones, Jayden Wood, Julie-May Wilcox, Damian Harris, Keira Hopkins, Chloe Pope, Joshua Miles, Lili Hampton, Callum Henry, Najwa Benazzouzm, Carter Hains, Zack Roberts, Max John,



Congratulations to Form Classes 7W, 8M and 7G and their dedicated form tutors, Mrs Grabham (7M) Mr Evans (8M) and Miss Richards (7G), for achieving outstanding attendance throughout September, October and November respectively. This incredible accomplishment is a testament to the commitment and teamwork shown by every learner in these form classes. The CCYD Attendance League is more than just a competition—it's about building a culture of reliability, resilience, and mutual support. The learners in 7W, 8M & 7G have truly embraced this challenge, working together to encourage one another and maintain the highest possible attendance. Their determination and positive attitude have set a shining example for the entire school. Winning the Golden Ticket is no small feat - it reflects consistency, effort, and the belief that every day in school counts toward success. Well done winners, Keep leading the way and inspiring others to aim for excellence. Who will claim the next Golden Ticket? The competition is heating up, so let's keep striving for greatness. Every day matters—let's make next month even better! Each learner wins a Movie slot which allows them to take a lesson off to watch a movie, eat a snack and enjoy a hot chocolate as a treat.



Miss Winters and Mrs Thomas had some fun in December engaging the learners with their daily 'Naughty Elf' content. The learners were keen to find out the next scene every day and rushed into school to view the TV displays in the atrium. A huge thank you to our teachers for creating these memories for our learners.



CCYD CHILDREN IN NEED (CIN)

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen once again showed its incredible spirit and creativity in support of Children in Need (CIN). This year's annual CCYD CIN Fashion Parade was nothing short of spectacular, with both our Sixth Form students and staff pulling out all the stops to claim that all-important 1st place! From wacky costumes to clever themes, the effort and imagination behind the fancy dress outfits were truly inspiring. The parade was filled with laughter, cheers, and a wonderful sense of community as everyone came together for such a worthy cause. A huge well done to everyone who took part—you didn't just make the day fun, you helped make a real difference. Your enthusiasm and generosity embody what CCYD is all about!



CCYD PE - BOYS FOOTBALL

What a great game of football from two great teams. Incredibly proud of this team who beat Penyrheol 2-2 (8-7 on pens) in the Welsh Cup to reach the National Rounds after Christmas. Outstanding commitment and teamwork from everyone. Well Done Boys!!!



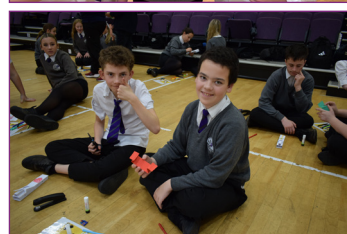
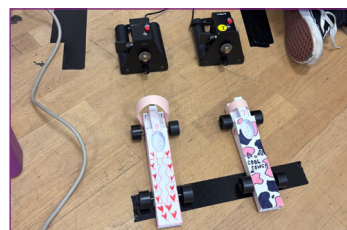
CCYD PE - BOYS FOOTBALL

Our CCYD KS4 basketball team performed brilliantly in their first tournament of the season against both Pencoed and Llangynwyd with 3 wins, a draw and 1 loss. On to the next game!!



CCYD DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPT

A huge thank you to @EESWSTEMCymru and their lovely team who brought mini F1 racing to CCYD recently. Some lucky Year 8 learners were involved in the design and prototyping of the aerodynamic cars and then raced them using gas cartridges and starting gates along a 10M track with the winners receiving a trophy.



CCYD YEAR 9 WORLD SKILLS DAY

Our Year 9 learners recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Pencoed College for a World Skills experience day. The trip was designed to give learners a taste of the diverse career pathways and practical skills available in today's world - and it certainly delivered! Throughout the day, learners explored a wide range of hands-on activities, including: Arts & Crafts – Unleashing creativity through design and making. Food – Experimenting with culinary skills and learning about food preparation. Robotics – Discovering the fascinating world of automation and engineering. E-Sports – Engaging in competitive gaming and learning about the growing digital industry. Escape Rooms – Developing teamwork and problem-solving skills in a fun, challenging environment. The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm as students immersed themselves in each activity. It was fantastic to see them collaborating, experimenting, and gaining confidence in new areas. Feedback from the learners was overwhelmingly positive - everyone enjoyed the visit and came away inspired by the possibilities for their future careers. A huge thank you to Pencoed College for hosting such an engaging and informative day. We look forward to more opportunities like this to broaden our learners' horizons!



CCYD LEARNER OF THE HALF TERM

Each Half term our Heads Of Year (Pastoral Leads) nominate a learner in recognition of their outstanding effort, positive attitude and commitment to learning. Each learner receives a certificate, a shopping voucher donated by the 'Friends Of CCYD (PTFA)' and a photograph displayed at school.



LIDL SPONSORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

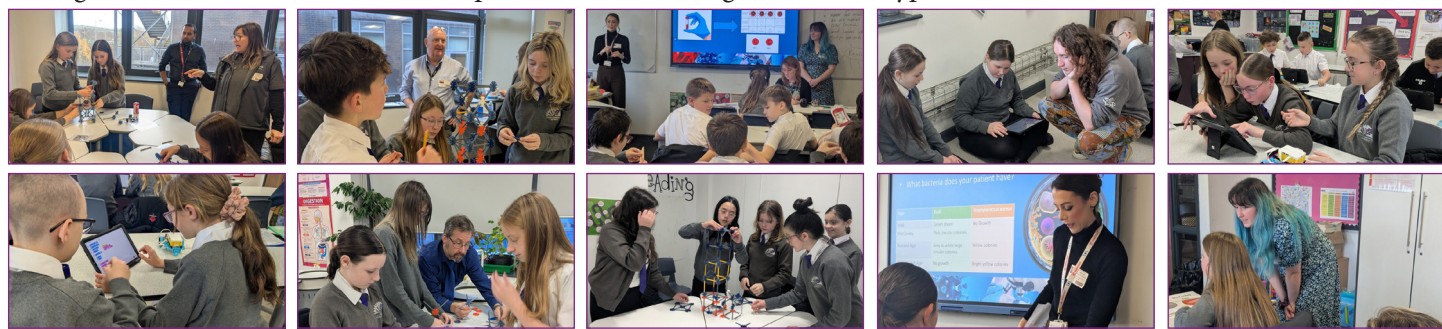
Learners located in B Block were treated this year when Santa came to visit. This year our local shopping market 'Lidl' very kindly donated £70 to buy gifts for our grotto experience. The learners entered Santa's grotto, sat on a chair and received a gift from the elf as Santa wished every learner a Happy Christmas. Experiences like this are so important to reward children for their hard work and also creating fun memories.

The learners were treated to a Christmas disco with our resident DJ Mr Lilley and a number of Christmas carols to end the day. A huge thank you to Lidl for the donation, all the support staff in B Block who made this an incredible event and the learners for their impeccable behaviour.



CCYD SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Year 7 were treated to workshops with Technocamps and Laing O'Rourke to highlight the diverse careers that are available to them from robotics to medicine. The learners fully engaged in the activities and appreciated the experiences they gained throughout the sessions. These workshops are vital in showing learners the types of careers available outside of school.



CCYD REWARDS DAY: RECOGNITION FOR THOSE WHO DESERVE IT

At CCYD, we believe strongly in recognising learners who consistently demonstrate the values that make our school community thrive. Every day, many of our learners work hard, follow the rules, show respect, and strive to be the best version of themselves - both in and out of the classroom. These positive behaviours deserve to be celebrated, and this year's Rewards Day was created exactly for that purpose. Throughout the year, learners earn reward points via ClassCharts for good attendance, positive behaviour, resilience, and sustained effort. These points reflect their commitment to learning and to the wider school community. Learners with negative points were not included in the day's activities, reinforcing our message that we reward respect, positive behaviour, and dedication—not disruption or inappropriate conduct.

To honour those who truly earned it, we organised a fun-filled Rewards Day packed with activities for every interest. Learners had the freedom to choose 3 experiences they enjoyed most, creating an uplifting atmosphere of excitement and celebration across the school. The day was a huge success, with learners fully engaged, smiling, and clearly proud of what they had achieved to earn their place. Staff across the school commented on the positive atmosphere and the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved. Rewards Day isn't just about fun - it's about modelling the behaviours we want to see and celebrating the learners who demonstrate them consistently. At CCYD, we're committed to recognising effort, encouraging ambition, and building a school culture where doing the right thing matters. A huge congratulations to all learners who took part - you truly deserved it.

Activities included:

Biscuit Decorating

Festive Wooden Candle Making

Arts & Crafts - Making Gonks

Bead Craft Making

Gaming & Minecraft Rooms

Just Dance

Games Room

Darts

Sports Hall Activities - Football & Dodgeball

Film Rooms featuring Elf and The Grinch



CCYD FOOD & NUTRITION FESTIVE COOKING

This year, our talented year 7 learners truly embraced the spirit of Christmas by baking an array of beautiful festive cakes and pastries. From rich fruit cakes to delicate pastries, their creations were nothing short of spectacular and brought a wonderful seasonal atmosphere to the department. What made this achievement even more impressive was the dedication and professionalism shown throughout the process. Every learner worked exceptionally hard, following all instructions and timings with precision. Their attention to detail ensured that each bake was not only delicious but also beautifully presented. Equally commendable was their commitment to maintaining a clean and organized workspace. After the baking was complete, they took the time to tidy up thoroughly, leaving the kitchen spotless—a true mark of responsibility and teamwork. The learners were an absolute credit to the department, demonstrating skill, discipline, and festive cheer. Well done to everyone involved for making this year's Christmas baking lesson such a resounding success!



CCYD is now using ClassCharts software to improve communication, make announcements, manage behaviours, track attendance and celebrate success.

Please download the App and contact the school for your login codes.

Tel: 01656 815920 / admin@ccyd.bridgend.cymru



DO YOU NEED ANYTHING?

giveusashout@ccyd.org.uk

If you need support then "give us a shout" via the email address above

This is our new discrete access point for any of your requests for support.



Do You Need
UNIFORM,
FOOD or
EQUIPMENT

If you need to contact the school regarding your child, please email your child's 'Pastoral Lead' who will endeavour to respond within 24 hrs.

Year 7: Andrea.Stockton@ccyd.org.uk

Year 8: Sara.Williams@ccyd.org.uk

Year 9: Rob.Philips@ccyd.org.uk

Year 10: Paul.Franklyn@ccyd.org.uk

Year 11: Beverley.Hill@ccyd.org.uk

Year 12/13: Rhian.Wilson@ccyd.org.uk



CCYD - LEARNER OF THE WEEK

At CCYD, we take pride in celebrating the dedication and achievements of our learners. Each week, teachers use ClassCharts to recognise and reward students for their efforts across a range of areas including attendance, classwork, homework, and participation in extra-curricular activities. The learner who earns the highest achievement points for the week receives a special visit from the headteacher, a congratulatory gift, and has their photo proudly displayed on our Achievement & Rewards Wall in the main atrium — inspiring others to aim high. Here are our outstanding winners from this term. A huge congratulations to each of you!

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



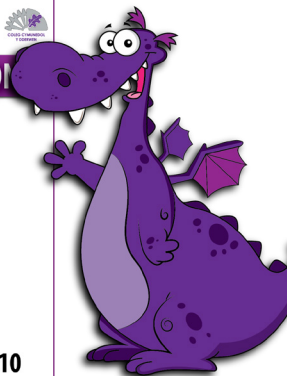
Mikee Buckmaster Yr 11

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Rogan Tucker Year 10



HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Riley Williams Year 10

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Evie Blackwell Year 7

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Yeow Beh Year 7

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Grace Collins Year 8

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT POINTS OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS



Max John Year 8

TRACEY WELLINGTON - HEADTEACHER

As we draw the term to a close, I am filled with pride at the many achievements of our learners and staff this year. It surely has been a long and demanding term. Congratulations to our senior learners who have just completed all their mock examinations. Good luck with your results! From outstanding academic successes and creative talents showcased in classrooms, to the energy and teamwork displayed on the sports field, our school community has truly shone. Highlights have included inspiring visits and trips that broadened horizons, and of course the joy of our Christmas Concert, where music and performance brought festive cheer to all. These moments remind us of the strength, spirit, and dedication that make our school such a special place. I wish every member of our community a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. Warm Regards, Tracey Wellington.